

I have been deeply involved in music for 59 years. First as a player, then a music publisher, a record producer, a recording studio owner, a Broadway sound designer, an Internet designer/developer and an educator in music and the music business. I have been involved first hand at promoting both my own music and that of other recording artists.

As a record producer, I have been promoting music for 33 years. The bulk of that promotion has centered upon radio play. I and my artists have written hundreds of songs and released dozens of recordings. Some of our artists are internationally recognized -- Nina Simone, Elvin Jones. Many are not but enjoy local followings. Personally, I have experienced international recognition by having participated in important jazz recordings.

Over these 33 years, I have sent thousands of records to radio stations. In the old days, it was gratifying to interact with station personnel on a one-on-one basis and to receive playsheets and logs which indicated my music being played. These days, I gain most of my knowledge from my students at Lehigh University in Bethlehem, PA. To a person, most complain that there is not enough variety in what is being offered from radio. They complain that as they travel from one location to another they hear the same group of songs being played over and over.

The Canadians, at one point, required that a certain portion of music produced had to be "Canadian Content." Local radio should be free to program music that reflects what their listeners desire. That desire should include their local artists. The FCC should make sure that external powers do not squash local freedom.

I know that payola exists in many forms. I have been offered opportunities to participate in such processes but have refrained from doing so. It is an unfair practice. For example, some jocks have asked to be supplied with multiple copies of new recordings so that they could be distributed to other station personnel. Later, it was found that the actual purpose was to provide a cash gain to those jocks by selling them to local record stores. Music should be examples of pure human expression regardless of personal tastes. Payola should be stamped out in all its forms.

What's live and what isn't should be made clear to listeners.

National playlists are valuable for those artists who achieve such status, but those playlists should share airtime with local and non-local artists who are not on them.

I support continued licensing of low power FM.

Thank you for your considerations.